

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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15	D/OEA		✓		
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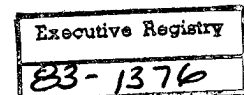
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Executive Secretary
 3/11/83
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



SECRET

March 11, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH
The Attorney General

SUBJECT: Klaus Barbie (U)

To make clear our position on the Klaus Barbie matter, we believe it advisable to issue a brief public statement (Tab A) indicating that Justice is conducting an inquiry into the facts of the case. We will refrain from further public comment beyond this statement until your factual inquiry is completed. Also, during the pendency of your inquiry, provision of information to Congress by any agency will first be coordinated with Justice. (S) ✓

FOR THE PRESIDENT

William P. Clark

Attachment

Tab A Public Statement

cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
✓ The Director of Central Intelligence

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Declassify on: OADR

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STATEMENT ON KLAUS BARBIE

Recent allegations have been made that Klaus Barbie had a relationship with the United States Government in the years after World War II. Although this alleged relationship would have existed decades ago, we view its possible existence with a high degree of concern. Therefore, the Department of Justice is undertaking an inquiry to develop a factual record of any relationship that may have existed between Klaus Barbie and the U. S. Government.